

Did you know?

Every year, 2.65 billion holiday cards are sold in the U.S., enough to fill a football stadium field 10 stories high!

If every family wrapped just three presents in re-used materials, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields!*



**Source: Office of Recycling and Solid Waste Management, Medical University of South Carolina*

MassDEP says waste volumes increase 25% – including food waste – every week between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

Easy ways to save money & the environment while celebrating

Holiday greens, trees & food

- **If you buy a cut tree, recycle it.**
One Option: Goats at Dandelion Hill Farm, 204 Hulett Hill Road, off Hewins, would enjoy munching on your used tree. Just go up the short driveway & drop your tree by the greenhouse. Please remove ornaments, garlands & tinsel. Share the holiday cheer with them.
- **Left-over food & scraps:** Put in the food diversion bins at the Transfer Station – goes to make compost!

This sheet, from Lee's Green Committee, has been updated for Sheffield residents.

Wrapping tips

- Outdated calendar pages & pictures
- Comics & magazines; old maps & posters
- Children's artwork
- Leftover wallpaper
- Fabric & tablecloths; Boxes & baskets
- Homemade wrapping paper
- Cups & mugs
- Make your own from brown kraft paper with stamping, markers, etc.

MYO Holiday cards from:

- Used cards, postcards, or nature photos
- Calendar pictures
- Recycled holiday paper
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Alternative gift ideas

- **Donate** in the name of a family member/ friend to a cause they support
- **Re-gift** an unused item or gift certificate
- **Check out** thrift stores, used bookstores, and other 2nd hand stores
- **Give tickets** or gift certificates to anything, including takeout meals
- **Give a membership**
- **Create a scrapbook**
- **Make homemade goodies** – cookies+
- **Give time** – in-person visit, zoom or phone call
- **Give an errand or service**, like grocery shopping or running an errand

What May I Recycle?

YES:

- **Paper shopping bags** - rope and plastic handles are acceptable
- **Gift tissue paper** - no metallics or glitter
- **Gift wrap/gift bags** - no metallics or glitter
- **Greeting cards** - no foil or wire
- **Paperboard gift boxes**
- **Corrugated cardboard boxes**
- **Catalogs**

Please, NO:

- **Ribbons, bows, tinsel** – consider putting them in a bag & the Swap Shop.
- **No metallics / glitter on anything**
- **Packing peanuts or Styrofoam blocks**
- **Plastic blister packaging from toys or electronics**

The New Mantra:

RETHINK - Choices
REFUSE - Single Use
REDUCE - Consumption
REUSE – Everything
REFILL – Containers
REFURBISH - Old Stuff
REPAIR - Before Replacing
REPURPOSE - Be Creative!
RECYCLE - Last Option

Happy Holidays